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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Living Conditions in a Rural Village near Fiume

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DATE DISTR. 16 Nov 51
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NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

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Comment: It has been impossible to identify or locate the village of "Velko Brdo" in available maps and gazetteers. 7

1. The village of Velko Brdo, located near Fiume, consists of about 60 dwelling houses arranged in no particular pattern. It has no public utilities of its own. Water is obtained from private and public wells and transported by hand. Electricity has recently been brought in by the government from the nearest power station. There is no sewage system.
2. Velko Brdo is purely a farming community. Some of the residents work in nearby centers, principally Fiume. There is no connection with the outside world except by horse-drawn vehicle or on foot over an unimproved road. People working elsewhere must walk about two miles to a railway.
2. The program of collectivization has been abandoned, but the memory of it is still fresh. The people are suspicious of any move made by the government, fearing it may be an attempt to reactivate it.
4. There is little evidence of government interference with the church. Velko Brdo has a church but no priest. When needed, a priest comes from a nearby village. There, they conduct a church-school without interference.

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5. a baptismal certificate [redacted] must be obtained from the government since they had confiscated the church records.

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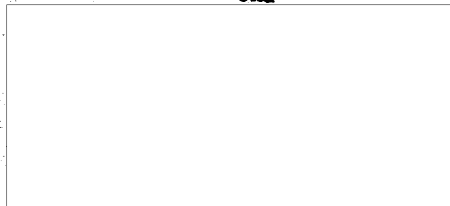
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6. [redacted] one instance of government confiscation of private property, 50X1-HUM
an inn in a nearby village. Taxes had been increased to the point where
the owner had requested the government to take over and let him be the
manager, which was done.
7. It was difficult to determine just how much interference there was with 50X1-HUM
freedom of speech. People freely criticized the government when among
friends, but were cautious in the presence of strangers. [redacted]
[redacted] It was obviously a fear based on uncertainty rather
than on government regulations or on instances of government action against
such offenders.
8. Poverty in the rural areas was evident. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted]
9. [redacted]
10. The people [redacted] in the rural areas [redacted] where they spoke 50X1-HUM
freely, are not happy with the government. The poor economic situation is
the chief reason for discontent, but they also resent the interference with
their personal liberties. But conditions are better and they are hopeful
for further improvement. They describe their situation thus: [redacted]
[redacted] under Russia, we had nothing; now, it is at least a little 50X1-HUM
better".
11. There was no doctor in Velko Brdo. People who worked for the government 50X1-HUM
have access to medical care and hospitals, but the farmers were without
care [redacted]
12. [redacted]
13. [redacted]

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